INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State

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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 22, July 6, 2 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE Rec'd: 2315 July 6, 1954 9:27 p.m.
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 7 1954
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In statement dated July 5 and published this morning's PRENSA LIBRE, Colonels Monzon, Cruz and Dubois promise on their honor to abstain from taking part as candidates in Presidential elections under new constitution which will be drawn up, and also promise not officially to support candidacy of any person.

They state that in accepting posts in Junta they were not (repeat not) guided by any personal political interest but solely by patriotic desire to erradicate international communism absolutely from country and to establish regime of peace, justice, progress, honesty, safety of person and property, and maintenance of human rights. They say that in order to achieve this they are determined that people's will be expressed in full liberty and without restriction.

Statement followed visit to first Monzon Junta last week, prior to arrival Castillo Armas, of "citizens committee" composed of Castillo Armas supporters who suggested that Junta calm public unrest by publicly renouncing any intention remain in office. While statement superficially coincides with desires of committee, it would appear place Castillo Armas in awkward position of having either to renounce Presidential aspirations or to appear to wish to perpetuate himself in office.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUL - 7 1954

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Control: 2314
Rec'd: July 6, 1954 9:37 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 28, July 6.

In press conference yesterday Junta presented its program of government for Guatemala in broad outline. It stated it was proceeding rapidly and drastically to eradicate Communism; constituent assembly would be called to draw up new constitution when country returned to absolute tranquility; social conquest of workers would be preserved; and Guatemala would support policy of western nations in international affairs.

Monzon as President of Junta was spokesman and Castillo Armas endorsed and amplified his statements. Monzon said about 1,000 persons had taken refuge in foreign Embassies and approximately 2,000 had been arrested. Authorities would study case of each asylee and would not grant a single safe conduct to anyone guilty of common crimes. He stated jails overflowed and new buildings would have to be pressed into service. He said possibly some of these arrested were not guilty, but such cases would be clarified. He added, "we don't wish to make mistakes" it was necessary he went on for country to return to total and absolute tranquility in order to convoke constituent assembly. He indicated Junta was in no hurry to do this, saying "we don't want a constitution promulgated precipitantly." In answer to reporters questions, Castillo Armas said it was absolutely false they desired to end social conquests of workers but rather they wanted to consolidate and maintain them. Monzon added that actions taken under agrarian reform law would not be reversed except in cases where actions were illegal or manifestly unjust. Further application of agrarian reform law would be suspended until new constitution promulgated. With respect to foreign companies, Monzon stated revision of their contracts was considered a possible road to adjustment of the problem. He said their desire was to give security to capital for development of country. Former regime he said on one hand spoke of economic development and on other suppressed it. On foreign policy he said Junta had as its principal intentions; recognition of international obligations previously made; reentry into organization of Central American States, support and cooperation with UN and OAS, and good relations with every American country and nonintervention in internal affairs of any. He said Guatemala would not have relations with any Iron Curtain country, and "Guatemala will support the policy follwed by the western democracies."

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Department of State

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Control: 2966

Rec'd: July 8, 1954
5:12 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 43, July 6.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL - 6 1954

Junta yesterday lifted state of seige imposed by Diaz Junta June 28, stating national emergency has disappeared, but continued for further 30 days suspension of constitutional guarantees decreed by Arbenz government, June 7.

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